

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 11871 01 OF 03 030425Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 11871

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SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 21: SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

1. SUMMARY: THREE ISSUES CONSUMED MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION
TIME OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
HELD ON JULY 25, 26 AND 27. THE FIRST WAS THE ATTEMPT OF
THE GROUP OF 77 TO POSTPONE THE THIRD PREPCOM FOR THE S&T
CONFERENCE; THE SECOND WAS A DA COSTA PROPOSAL FOR "PILOT
PROJECTS" AS A CONSEQUENT NEED WHICH HE FORESEES AS ARISING
FROM THE CONFERENCE; AND THE THIRD WAS THE QUESTION OF
BRAIN DRAIN. OTHERWISE, DELEGATES' STATEMENTS WERE PRETTY
MUCH CONFINED TO DESCRIBING THEIR COUNTRIES' NATIONAL
PAPERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE, GUY GRES-
FORD, OPENED THE MEETINGS BY PRESENTING THE SECRETARIAT
REPORT ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE (E/1978/82).
HE SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS NOT TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TECH-
NICAL ASPECTS OF S&T BUT RATHER ON THE DEVELOPMENT AS-
PECTS. THE CONTENTS OF THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PAPERS
RECEIVED THUS FAR (75) WHICH ARE TO HELP FRAME THE PROGRAM
OF ACTION FOR THE CONFERENCE ARE ENCOURAGING. HE SAID
MANY OF THE PAPERS ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF "OBSTACLES" TO
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11871 01 OF 03 030425Z

THE APPLICATION OF S&T FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE OVERALL RE-
PORT FOR THE CONFERENCE CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PAPERS WILL BE PREPARED BY CONTRACT
PROFESSIONALS. THE SECRETARIAT IS WORKING WITH THE AUST-
RIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE LOGISTICS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND
ALL APPEARS TO BE ON SCHEDULE. GRESFORD ALSO SAID THAT
THE SECRETARIAT IS PREPARED FOR THE SEPTEMBER PREPCOM.

3. DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KLAUS-HEINRICH STANDKE, INTRODUCED AND SUMMARIZED THE REPORT ON "BRAIN DRAIN". THE REPORT IS A COMPOSITE OF INPUTS BY VARIOUS UN AGENCIES SUCH AS UNCTAD UNITAR, ILO, AND WHO.

4. POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF THIRD PREPCOM: THIS ISSUE WAS FIRST RAISED BY VENEZUELAN REP WHO STATED THAT THE PREPCOM DOCUMENT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CONCERNS RAISED AT THE VARIOUS REGIONAL MEETINGS AND OTHER FORA, AND THEREFORE, DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT HAD ENOUGH TIME TO ANALYZE ADEQUATELY CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THESE MEETINGS. SHE STATED ALSO THAT DECISION 84 OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CARTAGENA AGREEMENT CONTAINED RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE OPERATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN S&T FOR DEVELOPMENT. SHE THOUGHT CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER THIRD WORLD GROUPS WOULD BE VALUABLE CONFERENCE INPUTS BUT THAT SUFFICIENT TIME WAS NEEDED TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY LEST THE ESSENTIAL FACTORS OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD REMAIN THE PREROGATIVE OF A SMALL NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. THEREFORE, SHE REQUESTED THAT THE THIRD PREPCOM BE POSTPONED. OTHER DELEGATES FROM THE GROUP OF 77 SUPPORTED POSTPONEMENT. (NOTE: AS IT STANDS NOW, THIS QUESTION WILL BE RESOLVED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 11871 01 OF 03 030425Z

INFORMAL MEETINGS AND/OR DISCUSSED IN PLENARY SESSION LATER THIS WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES.)

5. DA COSTA WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE INTRODUCED HIS NEW PET IDEA OF "PILOT PROJECTS" AS AN ON-GOING POST-CONFERENCE PROGRAM HAD IT NOT BEEN RAISED BY DELEGATE MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE LAST BUREAU MEETING IN NEW YORK. HE INDICATED THAT, IN THE BUREAU MEETING, HE WAS ASKED "WHAT AFTER THE CONFERENCE?" AND, THEREFORE, REPLIED WITH SOME IDEAS WHICH HE THOUGHT WERE APPROPRIATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. MANY DELEGATES, HOWEVER, SAW THIS AS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE STILL ANOTHER BUREAUCRATIC ENTITY WITHIN THE UN AND INSTEAD CALLED FOR GREATER USE OF EXISTING MACHINERY. DA COSTA TRIED TO DEFEND HIS POSITION BY STATING THAT EACH UN ORGANIZATION CONCENTRATED ON ITS PARTICULAR SPECIALITY AND THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR "ONE" COORDINATING BODY FOR S&T ACTIVITIES OF THE UN. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE UK DELEGATION, DA COSTA REPLIED THAT NATIONAL PAPERS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RECEIVED BY BHUTAN, LAOS, MALAWI AND MALDIVES.

6. BRAIN DRAIN - US REP SUPPORTED BY FRG AND FRANCE POINT-

ED OUT THAT THE SECRETARIAT REPORT ON THE "BRAIN DRAIN" (E/1978/92) DOES NOT PRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES AS ADEQUATELY AS THOSE EXPRESSED BY THE GROUP OF 77 AT THE LAST UNCTAD MEETING. THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ANNEX TO THE REPORT DID CONTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ONE WOULD HAVE TO READ THE ENTIRE REPORT INCLUDING THE ANNEXES IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL PICTURE. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT, AND, AT THE REQUEST OF THE G-77, TO TRANSMIT IT TO THE GA AND THE UNCSTD PREPCOM. USDEL RE-

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11871 02 OF 03 030432Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2830
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 GENEVA 11871

QUESTED THAT COMMENTS OF DELEGATIONS BE TRANSMITTED AS WELL. UNCTAD (PATEL) EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS AN OVERSIGHT OF THE EDITORS.

7. SOME OF THE GENERAL THEMES INTERWOVEN INTO DELEGATES' STATEMENTS INCLUDED - NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG ALL AGENCIES OF THE UN; THE CONFERENCE IS NOT AN "END-ALL", RATHER THE SPIRIT AND WILL FOR FINDING SOLUTIONS MUST BECOME A LIVING AND CONTINUING COMMITMENT; COUNTRIES MUST CONSCIOUSLY WORK TOWARD REMOVING "OBSTACLES"; COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES IS A MUST; DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED TO BE REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL AS TO THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY THEY REQUIRE; EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES ON S&T IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; DESIRE FOR THE CONFERENCE TO BE A SUCCESS; NEED TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM THROUGH SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS DURING THE NEXT PREPCOM; S&T CAN BE A SHORT-CUT TOOL TO DEVELOPMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; TRAINING OF SKILLED PERSONNEL IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

8. WIPO REPRESENTATIVE DESCRIBED SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE PREPARATION AT ITS REGIONAL MEETINGS IN MEXICO, CAMEROON AND EGYPT. SAID SIMILAR MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN EARLY 1979 FOR THE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION. UNESCO PROPOSED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11871 02 OF 03 030432Z

DESIGNATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATE SUPPORTED.

9. HUNGARY SAID THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONOPOLIES HAD CREATED THE DEPENDENCY RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE CORRECTED. POLAND SAID S&T SHOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO PEACE AMONG NATIONS. USSR SAID CONFERENCE SLOGAN SHOULD BE S&T FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

10. VENEZUELA SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CARTAGENA AGREEMENT, I.E., BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, EQUADOR, PERU AND VENEZUELA. SHE SAID THAT S&T CAPABILITY COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED IN DEPENDENT ECONOMIES AND CALLED FOR CHANGES IN FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES MUST HAVE THE LEGISLATIVE ABILITY TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF S&T WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO CURRENT PRINCIPLES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.

11. THE FOLLOWING US STATEMENT WAS MADE BY SIMON SELIG, PUBLIC MEMBER OF US DELEGATION:

QUOTE THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN,

FIRST, MY DELEGATION WISHES TO THANK MR. DA COSTA AND MR. GRESFORD FOR THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS WHICH GAVE US A GOOD ACCOUNT OF THE STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN VIENNA IN ABOUT ONE YEAR FROM NOW.

MR. CHAIRMAN, BECAUSE OF THE CRITICAL ROLE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PLAYS IN THE PROGRESS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THIS FIELD IS ONE IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 11871 02 OF 03 030432Z

IS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE, IT IS ESSENTIAL. THIS CONFERENCE COULD HOLD THE KEY IN HELPING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS RAISED IN OTHER WORLD CONFERENCES, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNING AREAS SUCH AS - ENVIRONMENT, FOOD, POPULATION, WATER, HABITAT, DESERTIFICATION - AND THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE

THAT IT SUCCEEDS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FRANK AND ANALYTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROGRAM OF ACTION BASED ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PAPERS AT THE NEXT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

AMBASSADOR YOUNG, IN HIS STATEMENT ON JULY 11 BEFORE THIS ECOSOC SESSION, REFERRED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A US FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPAND SOMEWHAT ON THAT POINT. THIS FOUNDATION WILL WORK WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN INCREASING THEIR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES AND IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO ALL. THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, FOR EXAMPLE:

1. PROVIDING GRANTS AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR TRAINING AND FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTED AT PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS SUCH AS ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND RURAL SMALL INDUSTRIES IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.

2. HELPING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IMPROVE THEIR INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES TO ASSESS, SELECT, INVENT - THAT IS, TO INVENT FOR THEMSELVES - AND TO ADAPT TECHNOLOGIES; TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SUPPORTING SCIENCE BASE; AND TO IMPROVE THEIR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY INFRASTRUCTURE.

3. PROVIDING FOR COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, REIMBURSABLE SUPPORT AND LIAISON TO SUPPORT AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS WITH

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11871 03 OF 03 030432Z
ACTION IO-14

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R 021936Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2831
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 GENEVA 11871

MIDDLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESEARCH AND

DEVELOPMENT OR TRAINING INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPMENT, I.E., THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS.

5. ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE US AND FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE SEEKING BETTER SOLUTIONS FOR PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

6. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES IN THE US, BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL, FOR ADDRESSING SELECTED DEVELOPMENTAL AND GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

7. DEVELOPING INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AMONG VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES BEARING ON DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

THE FOUNDATION WILL HAVE DIRECT INTERACTION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WE HOPE THAT WHEN THIS CONFERENCE CONVENES NEXT AUGUST, THE FOUNDATION WILL BE IN PLACE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11871 03 OF 03 030432Z

AND A GOING CONCERN. WE HOPE, TOO, THAT IT WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE.

THANK YOU. END QUOTE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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